



MONTANA  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

March 6, 2006

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
244 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: EX PARTE communication in the matters of Federal State Joint Board  
on Universal Service (CC Docket No. 96-45) and Developing a Unified  
Intercarrier Compensation Regime (CC Docket No. 01-92)*

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On March 6, 2006, Bill Squires, Sr. Vice President of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, and I met with Tom Navin and staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau and with Ian Dilner of Chairman Martin's staff to discuss the above-referenced dockets.

We indicated our support of efforts to develop a unified intercarrier compensation system which appropriately recognizes the costs of rural telecommunications providers and the legitimate needs for cost recovery by all networks. We also discussed the need to broaden the base of contributors to universal service funding, and the need to govern more closely the distribution of funds from the universal service fund.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Geoffrey A. Feiss, General Manager  
Montana Telecommunications Association  
208 North Montana Avenue, Suite 105  
Helena, Montana 59601  
406.442.4316  
[gfeiss@telecomassn.org](mailto:gfeiss@telecomassn.org)